

Message Text

PAGE 01 SAIGON 06986 231010 Z

11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-12 RSR-01 /140 W

----- 008888

R 230817 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 568

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6986

EO 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJ: WEEKLY MR 3 SITREP 16 APR-22 APR 73

HEREWITH REPEAT AMCONSUL BIEN HOA MESSAGE 0085 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0085

SUB: WEEKLY MR 3 SITREP - 16 APRIL - 22 APRIL 1973

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

1. DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF APRIL, THE NVA/ VC SIEGE OF THE ARVN RANGER BASE CAMP AT TON LE CHAM IN TAY NINH PROVINCE CONTINUED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL OF VIOLENCE AS THE PREVIOUS WEEK, WITH A DAILY AVERAGE OF 195 ROUNDS OF MIXED ORDNANCE RAINING ON THE CAMP. THE PREVIOUSLY- REPORTED NVA/ VC STRATEGY OF FORCING THE RANGERS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CAMP WITHOUT HAVING TO OVERRUN CM CONTINUES, EMPLOYING THE TACTIC OF ALTERNATING SHELLS WITH LOUDSPEAKER- BROADCAST APPEALS AIMED AT PERSUADING THE RANGERS TO GIVE UP THE CAMP. WE HAVE READ THAT SUCH TACTICS HAVE WORKED IN MRS 1 AND 4. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL WORK AT TON LE CHAM BECAUSE (1) THE CAMP HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF THE GRVN'S DETERMINATION; (2) THE CAMP COMMANDER IS A TOUGH, NORTHERN ANTI- COMMUNIST WHO PROVIDES GOOD LEADERSHIP FOR THE RANGERS; AND (3) WE BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT THIEU HAS ORDERED MR 3 CG LTG NGUYEN VAN MINH NOT TO SURRENDER THE CAMP UNDER ANY
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 06986 231010 Z

CIRCUMSTANCES, WHICH HAS LED MINH TO USE 830 AIR SORTIES AROUND THE CAMP SITE SINCE THE SIEGE BEGAN EIGHT WEEKS AGO.

2. ELSEWHERE IN MR 3, MILITARY ACTIVITY BY THE BELLIGERENTS REMAINED AT THE SAME LOW LEVEL OF LAST WEEK, MARKED BY LIGHT ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) AND MINOR GROUND CONTACTS. THE ONLY PROVINCE THAT SUFFERED AN INCREASE WAS HAU NGHIA, WHERE THE NVA' S 271 ST INDEPENDENT REGIMENT STEPPED UP ITS ATTACKS. THERE WAS NO MAJOR FIGHTING ALONG INTERPROVINCIAL HIGHWAY 2 IN PHUOC TUY AND LONG KHANH PROVINCES, BUT LIGHT ABF AND MINOR GROUND CONTACTS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

3. AT THE END OF THE WEEK, LTG MINH ORDERED HIS THREE ARVN COMMANDERS AND HIS TAY NINH, BINH DUONG, AND PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CHIEFS TO PUT THEIR TROOPS ON ALERT BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF LARGER NVA/ VC ATTACKS AS A REACTION TO PRESIDENT NIXON' S SUSPENSION OF BOTH THE US- DRV AID TALKS AND THE U. S. MINESWEEPING OPERATION IN NORTH VIET- NAM.

4. ON THE PEACE- SUPERVISING FRONT, THE PRG DELEGATION TO THE CEASE- FIRE REGION V TPJMC IN BIEN HOA HAS STILL NOT RETURNED FROM SAIGON. AN ICCS INVESTIGATION OF THE FIGHTING AROUND TON LE CHAM REMAINS STALLED IN SAIGON. ICCS REGION V ACTIVITY CONTINUED NEVERTHELESS, THANKS TO THE AGGRESSIVE AND ENERGETIC CANADIANS, WHO KEEP PUSHING THE OTHER ICCS DELEGATIONS AND GRVN OFFICIALS TO MAKE THE ICCS WORK AS IT WAS INTENDED. WE IN THE CONGEN HAVE ADDED OUR SUPPORT TO THIS EFFORT BY OFFERING SUGGESTIONS TO GRVN OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS AS TO HOW TO REQUEST INVESTIGATIONS, WHICH INCIDENTS TO SELECT FOR INVESTIGATION, HOW TO HELP THE ICCS TO DO ITS JOB, ETC. WE BELIEVE THAT WE WILL SEE RESULTS SHORTLY. DURING THE WEEK, THE ICCS REGIONAL TEAM AGREED TO CONDUCT TWO MORE INVESTIGATIONS, BRINGING TO 21 THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE INVESTIGATIONS IN REGION V. THE NVA/ VC DAILY SHELLING OF AN LOC CITY CEASED A FEW DAYS AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE ICCS AN LOC TEAM ON APRIL 5, AND HAS NOT BEEN RESUMED. THUS AN LOC IS THE FIRST PLACE IN REGION V WHERE THE PRESENCE OF AN ICCS TEAM HAS ACTUALLY HAD A DAMPENING EFFECT ON THE FIGHTING. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, THE ICCS RESTRICTION ON THE USE OF HELICOPTERS CONTINUES, WHICH HAS PREVENTED THE AN LOC TEAM FROM MAKING ITS FIRST VISIT TO PHUOC LONG PROVINCE, WHICH THE GRVN WANTS ASAP. IT HAS ALSO PREVENTED THE XA MAT POINT- OF- ENTRY TEAM FROM MOVING INTO ITS BILLETS ON THE CAMBODIAN BORDER.

5. ON THE POLITICAL FRONT, THE FIRST SLATES OF CANDIDATES FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS THAT WE HAVE SEEN SHOW 80-100 PERCENT OF THE CANDIDATES TO BE DEMOCRACY PARTY MEMBERS, WHICH OBVIOUSLY MEANS THAT THE PARTY' S LANDSLIDE WILL BE EVEN GREATER THAN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 06986 231010 Z

ANTICIPATED. WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE
BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON06986
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730458/abqcdyqu.tel
Line Count: 104
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY MR 3 SITREP 16 APR-22 APR 73
TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS
To: STATE INFO JEC PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005